

CDPAC Meeting Minutes
January 6th, 2000
State Capitol Room 447

Opening Remarks, Kathy Malaske-Samu

Ms. Malaske-Samu welcomed everyone to CDPAC's first meeting of the millennium and reflected on the fact that Y2K problems were not significant enough to keep any of us away. She reviewed the agenda and drew parallels between the individual processes many of us go through at the New Year to think about what we want to do better or do differently in the future and the Committee's interest in the Master Plan. From the response to our previous discussions and today's agenda, it is clear that the idea of a Master Plan for Child Care is one that is of interest to many people, and will generate some controversy. To state our intentions clearly, the Child Development Policy Advisory Committee is not planning to develop the State Master Plan. We are intending to examine a framework in which, or from which a Master Plan could be developed. We recognize that this Committee can not do this alone. This is a task that can only be accomplished in partnership with the child development community. What we hope is that our meetings will become a forum to discuss the issues and will inform, support, guide, and direct policy makers as they consider a Master Plan for Child Care in California. Through CDPAC, we want to provide the opportunity to fully explore the issues, to examine them from different positions and to weigh the pros and cons. It is our goal that the children and families of today and tomorrow will be well served by the issues we consider and the solutions we might want to present. It is also important to be clear that the Committee's interest in developing a framework for a Master Plan is Committee initiated and has not been endorsed by the Administration. Finally, we do not envision that the framework will prescribe who should be doing what part or who should be funded. Those kinds of issues have seemed to create barriers in previous discussions about how a Master Plan could be approached and they are not within the purview of this Committee. It is, however, within our purview to explore what financing options might be available to make child care more readily available to families throughout the state from a broader range of incomes, and how we can enhance the quality of care in State-funded programs as well as private proprietary programs. We are going to examine these and other issues and hope to do that in partnership with the child development community and others including parents, classroom staff, administrators, and the full scope of interested parties. Hopefully it will keep you interested as we go forward.

Committee and audience members introduced themselves.

There was one announcement from the audience. Donna Beveridge, the Local Child Care Coordinator in San Bernardino County, announced that there would be a conference on May 5, 2000, at California State University, San Bernardino that would focus on planning for the future; building strong children. For more details, Donna can be reached at (909) 387-5365.

A motion to approve the minutes from December 1st and 2nd was approved without discussion.

Executive Director's Report, Kay Ryan

Ms. Ryan acknowledged the CDPAC staff and all the hard work that has been done in the last month. Reporting on Personnel issues, she announced that Jeri Westerfeld would assume the vacant Office Technician position effective January 10th. Ms. Westerfeld's organizational and computer skills will be a tremendous asset to the office. The response to other advertised vacancies has been so great that the challenge will be choosing from among the large number of

well-qualified candidates. Hopefully, all new staff will be on board in time to be introduced at the conference.

The conference dates of February 16th and 17th are quickly approaching and planning is going well. Staff is excited about the agenda and the response. This is CDPAC's 10th Annual Local Planning Conference and it will include interesting and timely presentations, in a format designed to facilitate discussion among participants. The first day of the conference will open with a presentation by Dr. Jane Henderson, Executive Director of the California Children and Families Commission. Day two will begin with a presentation by Dr. Karen Hill-Scott, which will be followed by a buffet brunch and time to digest the presentation and dialogue with fellow participants. Other presenters include Mark Friedman, Director of the Fiscal Policy Studies Institute in Baltimore, Maryland; Betsy Haas, Esteemed Human Services International; Shelly Waters Boots, California Child Care Resource and Referral Network; Alison Gopnik, Professor of Psychology at the University of California, Berkeley, and Co-author of *The Scientist in the Crib: Minds, Brains and How Children Learn*; and many other very knowledgeable people who will be presenting ideas and strategies that will benefit local Child Care Planners, providers and policy makers.

In addition to the conference, we are working to finalize contracts with both contractors and funders. Each contract in excess of \$5,000 will require a resolution from the Committee, so the approval of contracts will likely be an agenda item on future agendas.

An amendment, requested by Robin Gray Sanders, was made to the October meeting minutes to reflect that the Newborn Hearing Screening Program requires CCS approved hospitals "to offer" rather than "to provide" newborns hearing screening prior to discharge from the hospital.

On December 7th, the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network held a press conference in the Capitol to release the 1999 California Child Care Portfolio. Assemblyman Darrell Steinberg, Chair of the Assembly Labor Committee; Patty Siegel and Shelly Waters Boots, of the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network; Maria Balakshin, representing California Department of Education (CDE); Dr. Alice Walker Duff, from Crystal Stairs Resource and Referral Agency; and Edward Condon from Sacramento Montessori Schools presented findings from this compilation of hard-to-find child care data. Ms. Donita Stromgren, from the Child Care R&R Network was in attendance and was invited to say a few words about the Portfolio.

Ms. Stromgren called the Portfolio the definitive report on child care supply and demand in California and noted that its release was accompanied by more than 60 media spots dealing with its findings and received strong support from Legislators. Ms. Stromgren indicated that members of the research team were available to provide a more comprehensive discussion of the report at a later date and that copies of the full report could be obtained for a cost of \$30.00 plus shipping from the R&R Network at (415) 882-0234. She also suggested that questions about the data could be directed to Shelly Waters Boots at the above number. Although the report is not available on the web at this time, Shelly will be presenting key findings from the portfolio at CDPAC's conference.

State Department Reports

Maria Balakshin, California Department of Education, Child Development Division

Ms. Balakshin reported that she would address some of the major points she covered last month. First, is CDE's State Preschool expansion effort that will be launched at the end of January. There is \$23 million budgeted in the current fiscal year, which is expected to be augmented by an additional \$23 million in the proposed budget for State Fiscal Year 2000-01. Child Development Division (CDD) has concurrence from the Department of Finance (DOF) to allocate these funds through a single Request for Applications (RFA) process covering both years to help maximize time and resources. CDD will use a two-pronged process for this expansion effort, which will include a survey of existing State preschools who are in good standing with the Department. The survey will identify those State preschools ready to expand either a licensed capacity that is currently unfilled or an available facility that needs to be licensed, as well as those who can expand if they can participate in the revolving loan fund to acquire a facility. The first two categories will be eligible for funding from current year and the third will be eligible for funding from the expected budget year augmentation. CDE will also be conducting an RFA process for brand new agencies that are not contractors. The survey methodology and the RFA will go out simultaneously in February. The overarching requirement for both groups is that these new facilities and new services must be in underserved areas as identified by Local Planning Councils. The LPC priorities have been received by CDD and data are currently being aggregated. Existing agencies seeking expansion must be in one of the underserved areas identified. At the end of January, CDE will issue an RFA for 10 Regional Centers to provide technical assistance on a regional basis to help existing and new entities to participate in the child development programs. As mentioned last month, the process of establishing a new program is so involved that applicants often apply three or four times before their applications are accepted. This Regional Center concept emanated from discussions at CDPAC a number of years ago about the fact that people who do not participate currently in CDE programs need extra assistance in learning the regulatory requirements and dealing with local issues such as zoning requirements, etc.

Ms. Balakshin also announced that the family fee schedule input sessions are expected to be held between mid-February and early March. CDD will be conducting at least five meetings throughout the state to get input on family fee schedules. They will identify five or six critical policy questions relevant to family fees and ask parents, providers and administrators to respond to these critical questions. Based upon that information, CDD will look at the fee schedule that was proposed in the 1997 Budget Act Legislative Report issued a couple years ago and other fee schedules that have come forward from various organizations. This process is expected to result in a recommendation for amending the current fee schedule. She stressed the importance of the public input in this process and encouraged everyone present to share information (when received) with parents, providers and administrators.

Reporting on CalWORKs, Ms. Balakshin said that CDD now has all of the Stage 3 allocation out, but still anticipates a shortfall. (Note: The Governor's Budget for SFY 2000-01, released on January 10, 2000, contains \$280.7 million to serve the growing CalWORKS caseloads, including \$185.6 million in increased federal funding for State 2 child care, \$95.1 million in federal and State General Fund for State 3 families who have exceeded the two-year transitional benefit, and a \$6 million increase in 1999-00 to cover the Stage 3 shortfall.) CDD in conjunction with Department of Social Services (DSS), submitted a request to the Department of Finance for funds out of the reserve. DSS asked for approximately \$87 million for Stage 1 and CDD requested

approximately \$27 million for Stage 2 funding. CDD's request came from actual participation data from all of the Alternative Payment (AP) Programs. DOF requested additional information from CDE, and CDE is hopeful the request will be approved, so funds can be released and contract agencies will know precisely what they will have for the remainder of this fiscal year out of Stage 2 money.

CDD is very close to finalizing the allocations for the non-CalWORKs Alternative Payment expansion effort. Since this is an augmentation to the base amount for the non-CalWORKs AP contracts, these funds must be allocated on the basis of AB 1857. This required CDD to determine allocations based on a need versus resource calculation formula. The allocations are close to being finalized. Late this Spring CDD will release the Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines they were required to develop. CDD will also be releasing plans and information about training on this guideline document.

Cecelia Fisher-Dahms, Department of Social Services

The Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) in the Children and Family Services Division has completed its annual report titled *OCAP: A Story of Strengthening Relationships*. It is in the process of being printed. This report identifies the broad array of child abuse prevention programs, partnerships and small county initiatives that the office is involved in or sponsors: ABC programs (Answers Benefiting Children), Safe and Healthy Families (programs, training and technical assistance), The Wellness Guide and more. The report identifies and describes each of those programs. It also has a section on enhancing public awareness campaigns. It is an annual publication and is available through OCAP at (916) 445-2771. The Community Care Licensing Division is instituting an annual visit for family child care homes where a problem occurred in the past year. They are in the final stages of developing a document for family child care providers to deal with landlords. They also have access to a document prepared by the American Institute for Research. It is an evaluation of child care capacity, which examines the State's efforts including those to train welfare to work participants to become providers, community care licensing, the Family Child Care At It's Best training, and other local child care capacity-building projects.

Bonnie Parks, Employment Development Department

Ms. Parks provided information on Employment Development Department's (EDD) extensive student monitoring program, which includes tutors, lunch buddies, classroom assistants, literacy pals, and guest speakers. Release time or mentor leave is provided to all mentoring volunteers. The time commitments vary and can be geared to the volunteer's availability. EDD is exploring extending this program into child care facilities. Ms. Parks asked committee members who were aware of successful child care mentoring programs that could be replicated, to please contact her. In turn, EDD would be pleased to share its knowledge of student mentoring programs.

Children and Families Commission Report, Leslie Witten-Rood

The California Children and Families Commission held a public input session on child care and development on Wednesday, December 15, 1999, at Mills College. The purpose of the Oakland Roundtable was to obtain input that will assist the State Commission in establishing priorities for expenditures to address significant child care issues. The State Commission is directed by statute to allocate Child Care Account funds for the education and training of child care providers, the development of educational materials and guidelines for child care workers, and the availability and provision of high quality, accessible, and affordable child care. This Roundtable was the first of a series of public input sessions that the State Commission will conduct throughout the state.

- **FUNDS**: The California Children and Families Act directs 20% of the total fund to the State Commission for expenditure:
 - 6% percent for Mass Media Communications,
 - 5% percent for Education,
 - 3% for Child Care
 - 3% percent for Research and Development
 - 1% percent for Administration
 - 2% percent for any purposes of the Act except for administrative functions of the State Commission.

- **TESTIMONY**: The child care community was well represented at the hearing. Those providing testimony included CDPAC Chair, Kathy Malaski-Samu, numerous child care and development organizations, researchers, specialists, County Commissions, State department representatives and parents. The testimony given at the hearing needed to address one or more of the following issues:

BUILDING AND MAINTAINING A QUALIFIED WORKFORCE

1. Are there needs or gaps in the formal training of new child care and development professionals (home- and center-based) that the State Commission should address to ensure that all children receive services that promote their health and development?
2. What could the State Commission do to improve the recruitment, training, and retention of a qualified workforce?
3. What educational materials, educational opportunities, or technical assistance do child care providers already working in the profession need to best serve all children and families?
4. Should the State Commission employ different approaches to ensuring a qualified and stable workforce for license-exempt providers, licensed family child care providers, or licensed center-based providers?
5. Are there research questions that must be answered to ensure that any new investments in professional recruitment, training, and development will be effective?

DELIVERING HIGH QUALITY, ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE

6. What are the key areas in which State Commission funding would best support the County Commissions' charge to promote high quality, accessible, affordable child care for all children age five and under?
7. Are there gaps in services to any specific age group, cultural/linguistic group, special needs group or geographic group of children that the State Commission should address? If so, how?
8. What statewide services would best support families in ensuring that their children receive quality care?
9. What are the promising pilot programs or research-based effective programs that the State Commission should fund or promote to achieve the greatest personal, social, and educational results for California's diverse young children?
10. Are there compelling infrastructure needs that the State Commission should address such as governance, professional education structure, or facilities?
11. Are there research questions that must be answered to ensure that any new investments in child care and development programs will be effective?

The State Commission intends to conduct other roundtables in other parts of the State. Funding decisions will be made at the meeting on January 20th, in Orange County.

Work Plan Development/ Work Groups

The afternoon portion of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of the elements to be considered in developing a framework or blueprint for a Master Plan. Again, it was stated that CDPAC hoped that these meetings could serve as a forum for open discussion about the process of developing the framework of a Master Plan. There is not a common understanding of what a Master Plan would include, who would develop it or whether one is even necessary. There is, however, great interest in the subject and the purpose of these discussions will be to identify areas where there is agreement and what the concerns are where there is not.

The discussion was lively and elicited participation from many of those present. Although there was no attempt to gain consensus around any particular idea, some seemed to have broad support, while others may have been recorded based on individual comments. The following comments are representative of those key points discussed. They have been edited to provide context and avoid duplication. All are subject to further discussion before conclusions can be drawn.

1. What is the “Framework”?

- A blueprint for developing a Master Plan.
- A financing plan and “how to” for building a blueprint.

2. Why do we need a Framework for a Master Plan for Child Care?

- To know what resources are necessary and available to develop the plan.
- To ensure that best practices and quality are primary considerations of a plan.
- To unify the child development field and ensure that key players – including parents from all income levels and people who provide all types of child care services are involved.
- To identify outcomes and goals for a Master Plan that will:
 - ensure full representation by underserved communities – no gaps.
 - help each child reach his full potential.

3. Why do we need a Master Plan?

- To give overall guidance and direction on how to integrate services to all children.
- To serve as a vision – synonymous with strategic plan.
- To streamline processes and standardize procedures for child care.
- To provide a formalized linkage with local plans.
- To have a common tool for all – including the general public - to use and a common language. E.g., child care, child development, babysitting, preschool, etc.
- To describe the system clearly and concisely without losing meaning.
- To tie quality and resources to any future changes. (We cannot just say the system will stay the way it is and increase it by 25 % and that will meet the need. When you look at resources, you need to look at quality.)

4. Who will use it?

- Providers including health, mental health, policy makers, departments and agencies, (state, local, and federal). Businesses and consumers.
- Relationships of State Master Plans to Local Child Care, County, and Prop 10 plans.

5. Should it cover the entire system or only subsidized care?

- All children! Including children with disabilities. O-14
- Assess the relationships between foster care, kinship care, children at risk, etc.

Work Plan for future meetings

- Develop a draft of vision statement.
- Use little Hoover Commission report as an initial reference tool.
- Make recommendations for process of developing vision statement (reference: Child Care Law Center, inclusion of clients, providers, public in process.)
- Define timeline for achieving vision.
- Look at K-12 Master Plan and processes that were used.
- Identify processes for someone who will develop the Master Plan.
- Define what this product (framework) will be, e.g., How To Develop a Master Plan.
- Seek foundation funding to finance developing the “framework” or “blue print.”
- Address how this effort relates to legislation introduced during the current session.
- Identify basic elements/principles to be included in legislation.
- Invite key stakeholders to address future meetings (United Child Care Campaign and Coalition to the next meeting.)
- Form task groups based on elements of blueprint (reference Preschool and School Age Task Forces.)

Next Meeting

After discussion weighing the importance of this process continuing in a timely way and the staff's need to focus on the conference, it was decided not to skip the meeting following the conference. A motion to have a meeting on March 2, 2000, was made and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45.

Meeting Attendance

Members

Maria Balakshin, CDD/CDE
Cecelia Fisher-Dahms, DSS
Joyce De Witt
Kathy Malaske-Samu, LA County
Eleanor Moulton, EduCare
Bonnie Parks, EDD
Dianne Philibosian, Public Member

Mary Emmons, CII
Joyce Hanson, Child Advocate
Lynn Lucas, El Dorado Supt. of Schools
Dennis Mooney, Child Advocate
Robert Orsi, Mulberry Child Care Centers
Earl Peterson, Child Care Consultant
Amy L. Tan, Sacramento City/ College USD

Guests

Dee Cuney, Family Child Care
Lana Magness
Susan Milton
Donita Stromgren, R&R Network
Linda Parfitt, CDD
Juanita Weber
Laura Brown
Jolene Thomas
Jean Baker, LPC Contra Costa County
Joan Richards
Marie Hernandez
Nancy Strohl
Francine Nunes
Kathi Walker
Cheryl Allen
Ellen Hiuga, DSS, CCL
Anthony Simbol, LAO
Jemahl Amen, Assemblyman Wesson's Office
Jeanette Houston Smith, Dept of Alcohol & Drug

Pat Talley
Donna Beveridge, LPC
Marsha Sherman, Child Care Health Prog.
Steve Erwin, Kaplan
Edwin Warren
Linda McBride
Denna McPhee
Barbara Coulibaly
Stephanie R. Myers
Tony Washington
Chris Hernandez
Viviane Schubach
Tim Fitzharris
Pamm Shaw
Lucy Berger
Pat Dorman, On The Capitol Doorstep
Sarah DeVol, GHS
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